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THE NATIONAL TRIBUNE

WASHINGTON, D. C., DECEMBER 17, 1896.

SAMPLE COPIES.

We send a number of sample copies of this week's issue of THE NATIONAL TRIBUNE to those who are not subscribers to the paper, but who should be interested in it. We ask every one who receives a copy to give it careful examination, and compare it with other family papers. We are sure they will find it a better paper for themselves and families than any other that they can find. It is a superior paper in every respect, and constantly strives to lead all the other publications in the country by its higher quality of the matter it furnishes its readers. It spends more money in getting up a paper of the highest possible class than any other, and all matter which appears in its columns is written especially for it. It has no "boiler plate" stuff or syndicate matter. It is bright, live, able, progressive, and independent. It is a paper for the people, and has no untangling alliances with any man or faction. It aims only to represent the loyal, working, progressive people of the country, to tell the truth of history, and champion the cause of the man whose voice and blood made the country as great and prosperous as it is.

The paper should be in every family, and we ask all who read this to not only subscribe for it themselves, but to endeavor to get others interested in it. It costs but \$1 a year—two cents a week—and so is within the reach of everyone. No other paper in the country gives so much of the best reading matter for the money.

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ARTICLES FORTHCOMING.

THE VERMONT BRIGADE IN THE WILDERNESS. By Ernest Maj.-Gen. L. A. Grant, commander of the brigade, and late Assistant Secretary of War.

THE BATTLE OF FAIR OAKS, OR SEVEN PINES. By Maj.-Gen. H. M. Planted, formerly Lieutenant-Colonel of the 11th Me., and afterward Major-General of Volunteers.

FIDELITY ON FORT SUMTER. A thrilling story of a young Ohio mechanic who was in Charleston at the time, and was compelled to join the rebels, but who afterwards escaped and served three years in a Union regiment.

IN AND OUT OF CHARLESTON. By E. O. B., a young Connecticut man, who was caught in Charleston at the opening of hostilities.

REMINISCENCES OF GETTYSBURG.

By Jas. Fulton, M. D., New London, Pa. SABERS AGAIN TO THE FRONT. An Account of the Cavalry Raids around Corinth. By Birney McLean, 2d Iowa Cav.

THE CUMBERLAND GAP CAMPAIGN. The Port Taken by the 86th Ohio. By A. B. Howlett, Co. A, 86th Ohio, Marion, Iowa.

THE KANAWHA DIVISION AND ITS CAMPAIGNS. Incidentally of the Military Service of Maj. Wm. McKinley. By E. B. Wilson, Toledo, O.

SIEGE AND CAPTURE OF FORT PULASKI. By James H. Harold, Lieutenant, 1st N. Y. Eng.

REBEL DEFENSE OF FORT WAGNER. etc. By James H. Harold, Lieutenant, 1st N. Y. Eng.

CHATTANOOGA, LOOKOUT MOUNTAIN, AND MISSION RIDGE. By Col. Lyman Bridges, Chief of Artillery, Fourth Corps, San Leandro, Cal.

No. 14, NATIONAL TRIBUNE LIBRARY, being a sketch of the Life of Admiral Farragut, is now ready. This is a historical gem, and ought to be in the possession of every lover of American history. The description of the Capture of New Orleans, Attack on Port Hudson, Battle of Mobile Bay and the fight with the rebel ram Tennessee are pen-pictures of absorbing interest. It will be sent postage prepaid upon receipt of five cents per copy.

"THE STORY OF CUBA," being No. 9 in the issue of THE NATIONAL TRIBUNE LIBRARIES, is of more than passing interest. You ought to have a copy, so that you may be posted on the history of the struggle on that island, in case the United States becomes involved in a war with Spain. Price five cents.

THERE are now 14 numbers issued of THE NATIONAL TRIBUNE LIBRARY—a series of historical and statistical textbooks. The whole set will be sent for 60 cents, or any six numbers for 25 cents.

A GRADED SERVICE PENSION BILL.

A bill has been favorably reported from the House Committee on Invalid Pensions, which reads as follows:

That from and after July 4, 1897, every surviving officer or enlisted man who was mustered into the military or naval service of the United States between April 15, 1861, and July 1, 1865, and received an honorable discharge therefrom, shall be entitled, upon application, to receive a pension of \$3 per month, and, in addition thereto, a sum per month equal to one cent per day for every day served under such muster-in during said time: Provided, That in computing the period served all services from which such person had an honorable discharge shall be taken into consideration.

Sec. 2. That the pension herein provided shall not be in addition to any pension now or which may hereafter be granted; but nothing in this act contained shall be construed to deprive a person from applying and electing to receive a pension to which he may be otherwise entitled.

Sec. 3. That pensions granted under this act shall date from July 4, 1897: Provided, That the application therefor shall have been filed within one year subsequently thereto: And provided further, That if such application be filed at any time beyond one year thereafter, the pension, when allowed, shall commence at the date of such filing.

Sec. 4. That the Secretary of the Interior shall prescribe such rules and regulations as may be necessary to carry into effect the provisions of this act.

We do not think this as good a bill as the straight Service Pension Bill of \$8 a month for every man who served 90 days or more and was honorably discharged, for the following reasons:

1. Eight dollars a month is the historical minimum for a service pension.

It is the rate that has always been given as the lowest for any length of service.

It was the rate given all soldiers of the Revolution for nine months' service.

It was the rate fixed for soldiers of the war of 1812 who served 60 days.

Later this service was reduced to 14 days.

It was the rate fixed for soldiers who served for 30 days in the Black Hawk, Creek, Cherokee, and Seminole Indian wars, and it was the rate fixed for 60 days service in the Mexican war.

We think it a grave and unjust discrimination to fix the minimum pension for service in the war of the rebellion at less than \$8 a month.

All the historical precedents are in favor of this rating, and they form a most powerful argument for it.

2. The Per Diem feature is impolitic at this time.

Any uncertainty as to the amount to be expended by any proposed pension legislation is the strongest bar to its success.

Very many Representatives and Senators who will vote for a liberal bill giving a known amount of money will strongly oppose one giving an unknown amount.

This is particularly true now, in the present condition of the Treasury.

They are hunted by a bugbear as to the immensity of the number of soldiers yet living and the size of the sum that will be required to pay them.

It is useless to contend against this feeling. We must simply accept it as a fact, and do the best we can.

After awhile, when the Treasury is fuller, they may feel different, and then will be the time to urge the Per Diem feature.

At present we can hope to get a straight Service Pension Bill, giving \$8 a month to every man, because all the arguments—historical and otherwise—are overwhelmingly in favor of it, and we can show very satisfactorily what it will cost.

3. As the object of agitation is success, we should concentrate upon that which is most hopeful, and look to future agitation to secure whatever additional is needed to make the legislation what we desire.

Therefore, let us all join now upon a simple, plain Service Pension Bill, which will give at least \$8 a month to every man who served 90 days or more, and was honorably discharged.

THE TARIFF BILL.

The test vote in the Senate showed the impossibility of passing the Dingley Bill at this session.

The Free Silver Senators proved as obdurate as ever, showing that they care nothing for the condition of the country or the Treasury in comparison with their pet hobby.

Their course does not help Free Silver in the least, but rather injures it, as it shows their determination to sacrifice everything else for their false economies.

The Republicans have wisely accepted the situation, and turned their attention to the next best thing.

An extra session has been decided upon, and the House Committee on Ways and Means is hard at work upon a new Tariff Bill, which will be ready for presentation as soon as the session begins.

This will be a thorough and radical revision of the tariff law, and free from the objections which can be urged against the Dingley Bill as a recognition and continuation of the iniquitous Wilson Bill.

It will be a bill framed on the lines of the McKinley Bill, but differing from that measure in whatever particular experience and changed conditions demand differences.

It will be a bill which will satisfy the people who have

repeatedly voted such overwhelming condemnation of the Wilson Bill. It will give an amplitude of revenue, and at the same time adequate protection to interests which were sacrificed by Wilson.

It will be passed by the House, and it is hoped that the election of enough Republican Senators will be secured to insure its passage by the Senate.

Fortunately, all the Republican members of the present Ways and Means Committee of the House were re-elected, so that the work of preparing the bill is in the hands of experienced men, entirely familiar with the subject, with Gov. Dingley at the head, and their work will be presented to the House in a shape that will receive prompt endorsement.

THE BURDEN OF PENSIONS.

The civil war ended more than 31 years ago.

Most of the surviving men who served in it are thrifty, self-supporting persons, as is to be expected of men with manhood enough to do the work they did.

Yet there are \$70,073 names on the pension-rolls and it will take \$110,000,000 of the people's money to pay their pensions during the next year.

The total amount of pensions thus far paid is \$2,034,817,769, or nearly as much as the greatest public debt the Nation ever owed.

These facts are scandalous, of course. They can only mean that hundreds of thousands of names are on the pension-rolls that ought not to be there; that for political reasons pension laws, general and special, have been passed with shameful indifference to justice and to the rights of the great body of industrious people who must pay.

The Supreme Court holds that a pension once granted is a vested right and cannot be withdrawn.

But surely Congress can now refrain from adding to the pension charge foster than natural causes reduce it.—New York World.

Similar editorials appearing in the New York Sun and other papers show that the soldier-haters have decided to revive their old fight against pensions.

We must now get in line to receive a savage charge all along the front.

The larger papers are giving the signal, and the smaller ones from Maine to Texas, and from Pennsylvania to Texas, will answer the signal and join in.

We can see the method in this. It is an attempt to restore the old political lines as they were before Free Silver broke in, and get the party on the same grounds that it occupied during Harrison's Administration.

The World's statements show its customary disregard of actual facts and conditions.

Every rational, sensible man must expect the pension expenditure to be larger now than at any time before, and to even increase for some years in the future.

The reason is obvious. It is now 31 years after the war—the most critical period in the lives of the men who bore the heat and burden of the conflict.

They were mere boys or very young men then. Now they must all have reached and passed the meridian of life, when the drafts they then drew on their health and strength demand payment, and Nature is an inexorable creditor.

For many years she seemed to forget or ignore the fact that the young man drew heavily upon her when he made that forced march under a burning sun, or when he camped for months in malarious swamps, or when he spent day and night, for weeks at a time, exposed to the pitiless fury of the elements.

Those things were only a far-off dream to him in his busy, active life, when he was 30, and even when he was 40. But when he passed 50 they became much more tangible than a dream.

They sprang into active life again in his aching joints and throbbing nerves.

For the first time in his life he now needs help, and naturally he turns to the Government to give him this help, by repaying a part of the debt it incurred when he helped it at enormous cost to himself.

What is true of one man is equally true of nearly 1,000,000 like him, who went through similar experiences, and are now of approximately the same age.

This is why any reasonable man must expect an increase of pension expenditures for the next few years.

The prating of the World about "hundreds of thousands of names on the pension-rolls that ought not to be there" is merely wicked, wanton lying.

It is wanton lying because no one knows better than the World that this is grossly untrue.

No one knows better than the World that this Administration came into power upon assertions of that kind, and that it has spent an immense amount of money and exerted the power of the great army of office-holders in a vain attempt to prove their truth.

There was nothing that the Administration was more anxious to do than to demonstrate the presence of "hundreds of thousands" or even tens of thousands, or even thousands, of names on the pension-rolls "that ought not to be there."

It had the strongest possible motives for making herculean efforts to discover these. This would justify the

clamor against pensions which had been so effective in helping it into power. It would be an immense gratification to the unreconstructed rebels, the malignant copperheads and the soldier-hating element generally.

It would be a great stroke of "economy" and "reform."

It would damage the Republican party immensely, and correspondingly help the Democratic party.

Consequently it was well worth making a supreme effort for.

The country is familiar with the ignominious failure of four years of that effort, made with the entire control of all the officials and machinery of the Government.

Never did an investigation begun with such a fanfare of trumpets end with such paltry results.

Never was a body of men so triumphantly vindicated at the hands of their enemies as the ex-soldiers of the United States have been.

The proportion of frauds revealed has been absolutely insignificant.

It has been so small as to astonish even the best friends of the veterans, who naturally expected many irregularities to be developed by so persistent and crucial investigation of such a vast amount of operations, extending over a period of more than 30 years.

No other department of the Government's expenditures could hope to emerge so triumphantly from such a merciless investigation.

In the face of all this, for the World to make such a monstrous statement is simply to convict it of being a hopeless, incurable liar of the most malignant type.

CUBA.

The treacherous assassination of Antonio Maceo, the Cuban patriot, has aroused public feeling in the United States to an extent that no other event in the struggle has, and is likely to force energetic action by the Government in favor of the struggling insurgents.

It demonstrates the unscrupulous barbarity of the Spanish methods, and the conscience of this country revolts at the thought of any people this side of the ocean being subjected to the control of such unscrupulous ruffians.

Everywhere the utmost indignation is being manifested. The speeches in Congress show that our action cannot be much longer delayed.

The meeting in New York, where a great number of the foremost men of all parties united in the strongest declaration as to our duties toward the Cubans, will be followed by similar meetings in every other city, town, and village, and the result will be such a wave of powerful feeling that Cuba will be snatched from Spain from the claws of a torturing cat.

When this comes, as it will within a few weeks, Spain can only snarl and spit.

The idea that she will even attempt to fight is ridiculous.

The Spanish army and navy have been a jest in Europe for more than two centuries.

For nearly 300 years she has not dared to fight even the smallest of her neighbors single-handed, and her armies have only appeared on the field and her navy on the ocean as the adjuncts of some other power, and they have won no credit for themselves or their country.

She is as hopelessly rotten as Turkey, and a fight for a week with any civilized power is an utter impossibility.

SHERMAN'S MEMOIRS.

This week's installment of Sherman's Memoirs is intensely interesting.

It tells of a condition of things which it is now hard to recall and properly appreciate.

The fall of Vicksburg and Port Hudson and the defeat of the rebels at Gettysburg should have been the termination of the rebellion.

Had the war been between European powers peace would have followed, for the Government had conclusively demonstrated its power to conquer peace.

The authorities at Washington began to look forward to an early termination of the conflict, and consider how they would deal with reconstruction problems.

Sherman's clear mind saw that the war was not nearly over, and that it was not really desirable that it should be over, considering the lasting peace of the country.

Technical and strategic victories would not suffice as they would in Europe.

The whole people of the South had to be completely and thoroughly whipped, so that they would not be able to say that an accident or the difference in commanders prevented their success.

They must be made to feel that the Government could absolutely destroy them unless they submitted unconditionally.

Therefore, instead of relaxing efforts, as was done, he was in favor of pushing on the war more vigorously and relentlessly than ever, until it reached

every part of the South, and drove the conviction home to every man that the rebels had not the physical power to cope with the Government.

To-day we can see that he was entirely right, and it would have been very disastrous to have patched up a peace after the fall of Vicksburg.

Sherman's letter to Halleck shows a marvellously clear grasp of the situation and insight into the future.

The whole thing is very instructive and interesting reading.

It really looks as if the Great Powers had at last gotten together, and are about to enforce upon the Sultan, at the cannon's mouth, reforms which mean the practical destruction of the Turkish Empire, and passage of the control of its people into Christian hands.

EX-QUEEN LILLIOKALANI is in this country, and on her way to Washington.

It is said that her object is to secure a pension.

If so, she ought to be made to file the regular application, showing that she was regularly enlisted and honorably discharged; that she is incapacitated for manual labor, and that her present condition is not due to her own misconduct or vicious habits.

ONE of the facts that the incoming Administration will be very much alive to is that we buy of South American countries more than three times as much as we sell them.

England, France, and Germany get trade that we should have, and which we shall have before the end of the coming four years.

WHEN Cuba comes into our possession the question of population will be settled very quickly.

The fertile island will furnish homes to 2,000,000 or 3,000,000 American land seekers, who will speedily make it a thoroughly American State.

Cuba has about as much land as New York or Pennsylvania, with only 1,600,000 people.

Her soil has simply boundless fertility. Only a small portion of it has been reduced to cultivation.

The Spaniards have selfishly done everything possible to discourage immigration, because they rightfully feared a rush which would deprive them of the possession of the island, or which would at least compel them to modify their rapacious Government.

One law which has operated strongly to prevent an influx of Germans and English is that every foreigner who settles there must become a Roman Catholic within three months.

Once put the island under the Stars and Stripes, and there will be a rush thither that will transform the character of the population within a very few years.

If President Cleveland has \$128,000,000 surplus money in the Treasury, why don't he do as President Harrison did—use it to buy up bonds?

WORKINGMEN employed:

States carried by McKinley . . . 4,069,413

States carried by Bryan . . . 636,562

Annual wages paid:

States carried by McKinley . \$1,991,504,043

States carried by Bryan . 273,799,544

A woman's best-kept secret: The way she managed to make her husband believe that it was with difficulty he secured her reluctant consent to become his wife.

MUSTERED OUT.

Veterans of the Country's Grandest Army

Who had answered the East Coast

HILTON.—At Olean, N. Y., Oct. 2, Sylvester B. Hilton, 50th N. Y. Engs. Comrade Hilton enlisted in 1862, when a mere boy of 17 years, and served until the close of the war. He was a brave soldier, and never failed to do his duty. Since the war he has been in the employ of the Standard Oil Co. at Olean. He leaves a widow and two sons.

STURDEVANT.—At Catawba, Mo., Nov. 26, John M. Sturdevant, Co. E, 6th M. S. M., and 61st M. S. M., enlisted March 24, 1862, and served until March 27, 1865. His father and three brothers were in the army.

HASKY.—At China, Mo., Nov. 28, of paralysis Eben Hasky, Co. H, 19th Me., aged 75. The comrade was a three years' veteran. A. J. Billings, Port 112, of which he was an honored member, conducted the funeral services, assisted by Rev. J. A. Wood. Three sons and one daughter survive him.

MURPHY.—At Erie, Pa., Dec. 2, Capt. Patrick Murphy, aged 63. Comrade Murphy was born in Waterford, Ireland. He received a common school education in his native country, and when 14 years of age shipped as boy before the mast in the North American trade, serving three years. He then shipped on H. M. S. Montreal as sailor and served three years. He moved to Erie in 1842, and the following year was employed in fitting out the U. S. S. Michigan, and on Aug. 18, 1844, sailed for the trial trip, pending her acceptance by the Government. She was put in commission Sept. 26, 1844, and Mr. Murphy was made Quartermaster, serving three years. Afterward he was Captain of the Bold, Master-Gunner, Eastward's Mate, and in 1861 was made Acting Master-Mate. The Michigan went out of commission that year, and Comrade Murphy went to Cairo and enlisted in the 1st Iowa. Porter died and served eight months as Acting Ensign. He was taken sick and returned home. Having regained his health in three months, he enlisted in New York on the U. S. S. Metacombet under Commander J. A. Jouett. He bore a conspicuous part in the big naval battle in Mobile Bay, and in 1870 was presented by Congress with a medal for gallantry and personal valor during that battle. While on the Metacombet he served as Chief Boatswain Mate. He went back to Erie in 1865. Two weeks after his arrival he again enlisted, and served as a sailor on the U. S. S. Michigan, and was made Pilot the same year. He was appointed Boatswain by President Arthur, Jan. 28, 1882, and served as such two years. Afterward he was Captain of the Bold, Master-Gunner, Eastward's Mate, and in 1861 was made Acting Master-Mate. The Michigan went out of commission that year, and Comrade Murphy went to Cairo and enlisted in the 1st Iowa. Porter died and served eight months as Acting Ensign. He was taken sick and returned home. Having regained his health in three months, he enlisted in New York on the U. S. 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